

# REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## Solid and Hazardous Waste

### Performance Outcomes and Strategy – Initial Proposal September 2006

#### DESCRIPTION

The proposed performance outcomes and strategies for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Chapter were approved by the RCP Task Force. Action by the EEC would direct staff to make technical refinements, and to seek input and participation from stakeholder and interested parties. At the conclusion of this public participation phase (approximately 6 months), staff will make a final proposal to the RCP Task Force, the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC), and the Regional Council (RC). The purpose of the Chapter is to establish regional goals and an action plan, including measurable performance indicators, for the management of solid and hazardous waste in the Southern California Region.

The overall Chapter objective is to move the Southern California region towards **Zero Waste**. **Zero Waste** aims to reduce, reuse, recycle and/or convert solid and hazardous waste in order to conserve resources and, in the long term, protect public health and the environment. This can be achieved by maximizing waste reduction and recycling, as well as promoting front-end product resource design efficiency and conversion technologies.

The performance outcomes and indicators, as well as the strategy action plan, will be the focus of the Chapter. These components will help guide local government in the development of sustainable waste management practices and establish core-planning principals in resources (waste) management.

For the purpose of this report, “wastes” are defined in the following manner:

- **Solid Wastes** are defined as non-hazardous garbage or trash, such as paper, refuse, demolition and construction wastes, and animal or animal-solid or semi-solid wastes.
- **Hazardous Wastes** are defined as ignitable, corrosive, reactive or toxic.

The following are the initial and proposed Chapter Outcomes:

#### **Outcome #1: Source Reduction**

**Description:** Source reduction embraces the idea of cradle-to-cradle concept, in which manufactures bear the responsibility for their products in a closed-loop cycle of production. A closed-loop cycle entails production, use, recovery, conversion and re-use to new products.

**Initial Proposed Quantifiable Outcome:** Reduce the amount of source and virgin materials in production<sup>1</sup>.

**Data Considerations:** Policy reports from CIWMB; data on post-consumer recycled products.

#### **Outcome #2: Waste Reduction**

**Description:** Waste reduction refers to reducing the generation of solid and hazardous waste in the entire SCAG region.

**Initial Proposed Quantifiable Outcome:** Reduce per capita solid and hazardous waste generation; reduce hazardous waste shipments; reduce accidents/disasters/spills/releases of hazardous materials incidents; reduce waste export to neighboring jurisdiction<sup>1</sup>.

**Data Considerations:** CIWMB data on per capita waste generation, disposal, diversion; California-only hazardous waste generation data; hazardous waste shipment data; hazardous materials incidents data.

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<sup>1</sup> As the chapter develops, we may want to specify a specific percentage reduction or increase; reduction and increase would be calculated using 2005 data as baseline.

### **Outcome #3: Reuse and Recycle**

**Description:** The “reuse and recycle” concept encourages the reuse of already manufactured products, such as the sell of re-usable products and supplies. For the materials that cannot be reused, this goal encourages product recycling, thus contributing to resources recovery and conservation. This section will provide the correct definition of recycling and explain the discrepancies of recycling in Southern California.

**Initial Proposed Quantifiable Outcome:** Increase recycling rates per land use type (analysis base on different land uses); increase single and multi-family homes recycling programs; increase recycling in commercial land uses and businesses. <sup>1 above.</sup>

**Data Considerations:** CIWMB data on diversion rates; recycling data; waste management policy documents.

### **Outcome #4: Develop Conversion Technologies (CTs)**

**Description:** Conversion Technologies refer only to materials that cannot be reduced, reused or recycled. Conversion Technologies convert the organic or carbon-based portion of post recycling residual solid waste into useful products. This section will also explore the potential for the development of biofuel from agricultural waste and other green/organic waste.

**Initial Proposed Quantifiable Outcome:** Support the permitting, as well as the construction and development of CT facilities within the SCAG region; adopt legislation that supports the development of CTs at the state level; number of CT facilities; increase of energy production produced by CTs in the SCAG region.

**Data Considerations:** CIWMB permit issuance, Los Angeles County CTs Pilot Programs; policy documents on CTs.

The following are the initial and proposed Strategies/Action Plans:

#### **1. Provide programmatic incentives for implementation, including finance**

SCAG will identify resources to direct toward local agencies that choose to implement the provisions of this plan. These agencies, therefore, would support new entrepreneurial business that would emerge from market-driven materials recovery industries. This effort would result in job creation, and local markets and infrastructure.

#### **2. Provide legislative support for the development of Conversion Technologies**

SCAG will continue to support legislation on Conversion Technologies and the development of these facilities in Southern California. In addition, SCAG will support policies that encourage diversion credit activities and recycling programs.

#### **3. Foster (government) agency coordination and capacity building**

SCAG will encourage and support consensus building among key stakeholder and members of the public regarding zero waste and conversion technologies. As such, SCAG would address other government agencies such as the California Energy Commission and the Governor’s recent executive order S-06-06 on ways to encourage business and individuals to reduce, reuse, recycle and/or convert waste.

#### **4. Public Outreach and Education**

SCAG will support the development and increase of public education and outreach efforts at the local level on zero waste. Local level policy would be encouraged at the County and City level, as well as at local school districts and education facilities. Examples of these policies would include increase of recycling programs and implementation of recycling into school curriculum.